

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 4, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,196,928 to Karasawa et al. (hereinafter "Karasawa"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Karasawa in view of U.S. patent 5,287,188 to Saeger et al. (hereinafter "Saeger").

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) for at least the reasons set forth below.

Turning now to the prior art, Karasawa provides an endoscope system for displaying two images on a shared monitor. An image signal is read from a CCD 24 using a drive signal from a drive circuit 25a, then amplified and digitized. The resulting digital signal is written sequentially in R, G and B memories by a memory controller, and read simultaneously by the memory controller, then written in an image memory 26. Moreover, an address generation circuit 25e can generate addresses for normal sized display, or thinned-out address for reduced size display. The thinned out address is picked up from normal addresses by a counter or frequency divider (see column 3, lines 43-65 and Figure 2 of Karasawa). Thus, the image data is read at the same frequency at which it is written for the normal sized image, or at a lower frequency for the reduced size image.

Regarding the passage cited by the Examiner (column 3, lines 47-65) as providing the claimed feature of outputting a writing signal with a first frequency to a line memory, and outputting a reading signal with a second frequency, which is higher than the first frequency, to the line memory, Karasawa merely discloses that the image data read from

the image memory 26 is converted to an analog signal by a D/A converter, then converted into NTSC video components, and mixed with a synchronizing signal at a mixer MW (Figure 2) to generate an NTSC composite signal (column 3, lines 38-47). Therefore, the passage at column 3, lines 47-65 of Karasawa merely indicates that an additional video signal from a child scope can be superimposed with the video signal sent from the image memory 26 to provide a mixed signal to a monitor to display endoscope images 29a and 29b simultaneously. (Figures 3b and 3c).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that there is simply no disclosure or suggestion of Applicants' claimed invention, which provides the advantage that different type of CCDs that are driven at different frequencies can be accommodated. In particular, clock conversion is performed in the line memory so that only one type of clock signal processing needs to be performed within the camera control unit CCU. Complicated signal processing in the CCU is thereby avoided (see Applicants' specification, bridging paragraph at page 23-24). Karasawa does not recognize such a problem or contemplate a solution thereto.

Independent claim 7 provides similar features to those of claim 4 in the context of an image pickup system with first and second image pickup units and patentably distinguishes over Karasawa for similar reasons as set forth with regard to claim 4.

With regard to the rejection of claims 4, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), an image pick up system having the features discussed above and as recited in independent claims 4 and 7, is nowhere disclosed in Karasawa. Since it has been decided that "anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference, disclosure of each and every

element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim,”¹ independent claims 4 and 7 are not anticipated by Karasawa. Accordingly, independent claims 4 and 7 patentably distinguish over Karasawa and are allowable. Claim 5 being dependent upon claim 4, is thus at least allowable therewith. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 4, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

With regard to the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), since independent claim 4 patentably distinguishes over Karasawa and is allowable, claim 6 is at least allowable therewith because it depends from an allowable base claim.

In other words, independent claim 4 is not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Karasawa patent nor the Saeger patent, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest an image pick up system having the features discussed above. Accordingly, claim 4 patentably distinguishes over the prior art and is allowable. Claim 6 being dependent upon claim 4 is thus at least allowable therewith. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that at least dependent claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the cited references independently of its base claim. Saeger is concerned with providing a display on a wide screen television. The passage cited by the Examiner at column 12, lines 49-68, merely indicates that, in a picture-in-picture system, the small picture can be moved to any position on the screen, or can step through a number of predetermined positions. However, Saeger does not teach or suggest adapting such technology to an image pickup system as recited in claim 6. Moreover, Saeger and Karasawa

¹ Lindeman Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458; 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir., 1984).

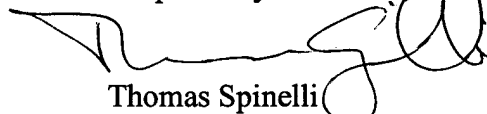
are concerned with different technical problems, therefore, it would not be obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the Saeger and Karasawa references as suggested by the Examiner.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6 patentably distinguishes over the cited references independently of its base claim (4) and is allowable.

Furthermore, claims 4-7 have been amended to improve their clarity and the specification has been amended at page 23 to correct a typographical error. The amendments to claims 4-7 and to page 23 of the specification are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of such amendments.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any other issues to address.

Respectfully submitted,



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